

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) An extermination device, comprising a holder and a trigger mechanism, the holder being configured to hold an expanded resilient ring, wherein the extermination device is configured to release the resilient ring free of the extermination device such that it contracts around a pest when the trigger mechanism is actuated by the pest, thereby exterminating the pest.
2. (Original) An extermination device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder is tubular and is open at a first end and closed at a second end.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) An extermination device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the trigger mechanism is located within the holder.
5. (Previously Presented) An extermination device as claimed in claim 4, wherein a bait or attractant is placed such that the trigger mechanism is between the first end and the bait or attractant.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) An extermination device as claimed in claim 1, including a firing member, wherein the holder is configured to hold the resilient ring in a release position and the firing member is biased towards the release position, and wherein the firing member and trigger mechanism are arranged such that the firing member is released from a cocked position and forces the resilient ring off the holder, when the trigger mechanism is actuated.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) An extermination device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resilient ring is made from natural or synthetic rubber.

10. (Previously Presented) An extermination device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resilient ring is made from a composite material.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) An extermination device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a dimension of an opening of the holder is in the range 25 to 40 mm.

13. (Previously Presented) An extermination device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a dimension of an opening of the holder is in the range 60 to 100 mm.

14. (Previously Presented) An extermination device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder is configured to hold a plurality of expanded resilient rings and to hold a first one of the expanded resilient rings at a release position, and the extermination device is configured to release the first one of the expanded resilient rings when the trigger mechanism is actuated and to move a second one of the expanded resilient rings to the release position when the first one of the expanded resilient rings is released from the release position.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An extermination device as claimed in claim ~~10~~ 14, further comprising a biasing means configured to apply a force to the second one of the resilient rings, towards the release position.

17. (Previously Presented) An extermination device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the biasing means is coupled to the trigger mechanism.

18. (Previously Presented) An extermination device as claimed in claim 1, configured to release the resilient ring, such that it contracts around the neck of the pest.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of exterminating a pest, comprising the steps of:  
    holding an expanded resilient ring on a holder; and  
    releasing the resilient ring free of the holder such that it contracts around a pest  
    when a trigger mechanism is actuated by the pest, thereby exterminating the pest.

20-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 14 19, further comprising the step of placing a bait or attractant in the holder such that the trigger mechanism is between the first end and the bait or attractant.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in-claim 14 19, wherein the step of holding the expanded resilient ring comprises holding a plurality of expanded resilient rings, and the step of releasing the resilient ring comprises releasing one of the plurality of expanded resilient rings.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the step of holding the expanded resilient ring comprises holding a first one of the plurality of the expanded resilient rings at a release position, the method further comprising the step of moving a second one of the expanded resilient rings to the release position when the first one of the expanded resilient rings is released.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 14 19, using the extermination device of claim 1.

28. (Withdrawn) A loading device having a tapering body adapted to allow a resilient ring to be expanded from the narrow end to the wide end of the tapering body, wherein the wide end includes a formation adapted to engage with a holder of an extermination device.

29. (Withdrawn) A loading device as claimed in claim 28 in combination with an extermination device of claim 1.

30. (Canceled)